Joint Declaration on U.S.-EC Cooperation
in the Field of Metrology in Support of Trade

1. Purpose

This declaration sets out the policy basis and orientation for a joint technical program of work between the United States and the European Community in view of supporting and furthering mutual recognition of test reports, calibration and measurement certificates provided for regulatory and market place compliance purposes. The goal is both to improve regulatory efficiencies and to facilitate trade. These aims will be achieved by reducing unnecessary duplicative measurements, tests and calibration requirements and by improving regulator confidence in measurements, tests and calibrations performed by qualified laboratories in both the United States and the European Community.

Steps to this effect may include, but are not limited to:

a) Recognition of the measurement capability of the National Measurement Institutes (NIST for the United States) and other institutes that are signatories to the CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

b) Establishment of the equivalence of national measurement standards based on the CIPM MRA.

c) Recognition of the measurement capability of designated calibration laboratories based on the equivalence of each other's systems to assess and monitor their competence.

d) Recognition by the importing Party's regulatory bodies of the calibration and measurement certificates issued by the National Measurement Institutes and designated calibration laboratories of the other Party.

e) Acceptance/recognition of reference materials developed and produced by the other Party on the basis of the relevant international standard (ISO/IEC Guide 34).

This declaration does not commit the EC or the US to any sector-specific initiatives; and precise decisions will have to be taken explicitly at the appropriate time on a case-by-case basis.

2. Current Situation

Tests and measurements play an important role in commercial transactions and trade, for industry and regulators alike. Product-testing protocols increasingly require measurements that are directly related to the importing nation's national standards or those recognized as being equivalent. In many cases, product tests and associated measurements refer to underlying physical measurement standards realized and maintained by National Measurement Institutes (NMIs). NMIs in the United States and Europe are legally responsible for developing, maintaining and disseminating national measurement standards, making them available to industry, government agencies, and the public; they are not, however, required to establish equivalence of national standards with other countries, although some do undertake this responsibility as well.

Regulators and industrial customers will not accept product tests and measurements verifying conformance to contract or regulatory requirements unless they are confident that the underlying physical measurement standards are valid. Mutual recognition of measurement standards between the United States and the European Community (EC) would facilitate acceptance of the results of conformance testing or product

certification performed by manufacturers, testing laboratories or certification bodies in the United States and the EC in key sectors where measurement comparability is important. Participation in measurement intercomparisons is critical in assuring that one Party will not reject products exported by the other Party simply because different methods are used to perform a measurement or test. As new technologies emerge and world economies grow, the number, frequency and coverage of such comparisons is rising rapidly. Sound, accurate and reliable measurements, be they physical, chemical or biological in nature, are therefore essential.

While physical measurements are realized and maintained at the highest level by NMIs in the United States and the EC, most tests and measurements in support of trade are performed by commercial laboratories, not by NMIs. Thus it is important to address both mutual recognition of the measurement capability of NMIs and the measurement capabilities of calibration and testing laboratories whose work is traceable to national or international measurements. The current lack of recognition gives rise to problems that affect trade, such as failure to accept calibration and measurement certificates issued by laboratories in the exporting country; unnecessary duplication of tests, measurements and assessments; and lack of mutual understanding of how measurement-related issues are handled. It has caused specific problems in certain sectors, e.g., aviation, pressure vessels, exhaust emissions, electromagnetic compatibility.

3. Metrology-related trade impediments

The table below summarises some of the general measurement-related trade impediments that could unnecessarily burden U.S.-EC trade and suggests some approaches for possible solutions.

"Impediments to Trade"	"Solutions"
1. Regulatory authorities (and industry) require traceability to physical standards maintained by different National Measurement Institutes.	a) Recognition of calibration and measurement certificates issued by NMIs, based on the CIPM-MRA framework. b) Increased awareness and understanding of metrology-related requirements (see point 5).
2. Different approaches to demonstrating measurement capability.	a) Recognize equivalence of respective systems and their results. b) Cooperation between NMIs c) Cooperation between accreditation organisations.
3. Different approaches to developing and certifying reference materials	a) Recognize equivalence of respective systems for value assignment and their results. b) Scientific and technological co-operation. c) Joint development of reference materials.
4. Reliance on different test methods	a) Alignment to international standards b) Harmonisation and/or convergence of EC and US standards c) Regulatory co-operation d) Scientific and technical co-operation
5. Lack of awareness among regulators and economic operators of how to deal with measurement-related requirements	a) Regulatory co-operation b) Exchange of best practices c) Improve dialogue between regulators and economic operators on the one hand, and NMIs, CIPM, accreditors etc. on the other

	hand.

4. Instruments available to achieve the objective

Trade facilitation and improved regulatory efficiencies can be achieved by recognizing certain key elements related to the acceptability of calibration and measurement certificates; promoting scientific and technological co-operation based on existing U.S.-EC agreements; and promoting cooperation, awareness and understanding of measurement issues among regulators and industry. Examples of instruments and relationships that already exist or are being put into place and that can be used include:

- The CIPM (Comité International des Poids et Mesures) Arrangement on Mutual Recognition of national measurement standards and calibration certificates issued by National Metrology Institutes and other MRA signatories.

- The U.S.-EC Agreement on scientific and technological co-operation and the Implementing Arrangement in the field of metrology and measurement standards.

- Cooperation between U.S. and EC metrology organisations

- Bilateral, regional and international cooperation between U.S. and EC accreditation systems.

5. Elements for a bilateral co-operation framework

To further our mutual objectives, and fully utilize the identified instruments, the U.S. and EC agree to consider the following cooperative activities and to develop workplans for specific technical activities. These activities include:

a) Encourage regulators and industry in both the United States and the European Community Member States to rely on and make use of the CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement with a view to avoiding duplicative measurements and calibrations.

b) Make use of the U.S.-EC Agreement on scientific and technological co-operation and the Implementing Arrangement in the field of metrology and measurement standards, to aid in finding solutions to measurement and test related problems that impede or could impede trade.

c) Establish cooperation between regulators on measurement-related requirements in regulations. Encourage exchange of information and experience among regulators, identification of best practices and networking.

d) Promote awareness and understanding among regulators and industry of measurement-related requirements and issues. Promote dialogue between regulators, industry and metrology organisations

e) Encourage and support the use of international standards related to laboratory competence. Encourage cooperation and agreements between U.S. and EC accreditation organisations and

support the related activities at the international level. Support regional and international programs for laboratory inter-comparisons.

f) Pursue an agreement on the mutual recognition of calibration and measurement certificates.